

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Prior to the present communication, claims 1-3, 6-12, 15-17, 20, 24 and 27 were pending in the subject application. Each of claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 16, 17 and 24 have been amended herein, and claim 3 has been cancelled. Thus, claims 1, 2, 6-12, 15-17, 20, 24 and 27 remain pending. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for testing a fecal samples from a persons for diagnosis, the method comprising:

obtaining a fecal sample from a person presenting with symptoms common to inflammatory bowel disease and irritable bowel syndrome;
determining that measuring the sample contains ~~for~~ an elevated level of lactoferrin; ~~and~~
~~selecting the sample having elevated lactoferrin for further analysis;~~
measuring the ~~selected~~ sample for an elevated level of anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies (ASCA);
measuring the ~~selected~~ sample for an elevated level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCA);
upon determining that the sample contains an elevated level of anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies and not an elevated level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies, diagnosing the person with Crohn's disease ~~for the person having a sample with an elevated level of anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies;~~ and

upon determining that the sample contains an elevated level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies and not an elevated level of anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies, diagnosing the person with ulcerative colitis for the person having a sample with an elevated level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a diagnosis of inflammatory bowel disease may be concluded ~~if said sample contains~~ based upon the sample containing an elevated level of lactoferrin.

3. (Canceled).

4-5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the elevated level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies differentiates ulcerative colitis from Crohn's disease.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the elevated level of anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies differentiates Crohn's disease from ulcerative colitis.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the lactoferrin, anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies and anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies are measured using one of enzyme-linked immunoassays, lateral flow membrane tests and immunoassays utilizing antibodies ~~for capturing fragments~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining that the sample contains an elevated level of the lactoferrin is measured ~~determined by~~ based on a qualitative ELISA.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining that the sample contains an elevated level of lactoferrin is based on a quantitative measurement ~~the lactoferrin is measured quantitatively~~.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising: diluting the sample.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

contacting the diluted sample with immobilized polyclonal antibodies to endogenous lactoferrin to create a treated sample;

contacting said treated sample with enzyme-linked polyclonal antibodies such that the enzyme-linked polyclonal antibodies are allowed to bind to captured endogenous lactoferrin creating an enzyme-linked antibody bound sample;

adding a substrate to the enzyme-linked antibody bound sample to create a readable sample; and

determining the optical density of said readable sample at 450 nm.

13-14. (Canceled).

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising: generating a standard curve from purified lactoferrin.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
comparing said optical density of said readable sample to said standard curve to determine the
concentration of endogenous lactoferrin in said ~~the~~ sample.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
contacting the sample with antigens of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* to create a treated sample;

contacting the treated sample with polyvalent antibodies to human
immunoglobulin conjugated to an enzyme such that the polyvalent antibodies are
allowed to bind to capture anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies creating an
enzyme-linked antibody bound sample;

adding a substrate to the enzyme-linked antibody bound sample to create a
readable sample; and

determining the optical density of the readable sample.

18-19. (Canceled).

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
contacting the sample with neutrophil cytoplasmic antigens to create a treated sample;

contacting the treated sample with polyvalent antibodies to human
immunoglobulin such that the enzyme-linked polyvalent antibodies are allowed to
bind to capture anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies creating an enzyme-linked
antibody bound sample;

adding an enzyme substrate to the enzyme-linked antibody bound sample
to create a readable sample; and

determining an optical density of the readable sample at 450 nm..

21-23. (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) A method for distinguishing inflammatory bowel disease from irritable bowel syndrome and for differentiating ulcerative colitis from Crohn's disease, the method comprising:

obtaining a fecal sample from a person presenting with symptoms common to inflammatory bowel disease and irritable bowel syndrome;

measuring the sample for an elevated or non-elevated level of lactoferrin;

~~diagnosing the person having upon determining that the sample has a non-~~
elevated level of lactoferrin, ~~diagnosing the person~~ with irritable bowel syndrome;

~~selecting the sample having upon determining that the sample has an~~
elevated level of lactoferrin, ~~selecting the sample~~ for further measurements;

measuring the ~~selected~~ sample ~~having an elevated level of lactoferrin~~ for
an elevated level of anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies (ASCA);

measuring the ~~selected~~ sample ~~having an elevated level of lactoferrin~~ for
an elevated level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCA); and

~~upon determining that the selected sample contains an elevated level of~~
~~anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies and not an elevated level of anti-~~
~~neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies, diagnosing the person with Crohn's disease;~~

and

~~upon determining that the selected sample contains an elevated level of~~
~~anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies and not an elevated level of anti-~~
~~*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies, diagnosing the person with ulcerative~~
~~colitis~~

~~differentiating between a diagnosis of Crohn's disease for the person having a sample with an elevated level of anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies and a diagnosis of ulcerative colitis for the person having a sample with an elevated level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies.~~

25-26. (Canceled).

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising:
monitoring the person for changing levels of fecal lactoferrin as an
indicator for the effectiveness of medical therapy, wherein if the sample contains
an elevated level of lactoferrin intestinal inflammation is indicated.

28-29. (Canceled).